

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1. A method for performing master planning priority  
2 assignment, the method comprising:

3           assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand  
4 record containing a demand record attribute field and a  
5 demand record priority field; said assigning including:

6           identifying a rule database, said rule database  
7 including at least one record, a rule database attribute  
8 field that correlates to said demand record attribute field,  
9 and a rule database priority field;

10          querying said rule database for a corresponding rule  
11 database record that contains data in said rule database  
12 attribute field that matches data in said demand record  
13 attribute field; and

14          updating data in said demand record priority field with  
15 data from said corresponding rule database priority field.

1           2. The method of claim 1 wherein said data in said  
2 corresponding rule database attribute field contains an  
3 explicit value.

1           3. The method of claim 1 wherein said data in said  
2 corresponding rule database attribute field contains a  
3 hierarchy value and said match occurs if said data in said  
4 demand record attribute field is contained within said  
5 hierarchy value.

1           4. The method of claim 1 wherein said data in said  
2 corresponding rule database attribute field contains a  
3 wildcard value and said data in said demand record attribute  
4 field is not used in said matching.

5           5. The method of claim 1 wherein said demand record  
6 attribute field includes due date, customer, and demand  
7 type.

1           6. The method of claim 1 further comprising creating  
2 said rule database.

1           7. The method of claim 1 further comprising updating  
2 said at least one record in said rule database.

1           8. The method of claim 1 further comprising creating a  
2 hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing a hierarchy  
3 value.

1           9. The method of claim 1 further comprising creating a  
2 hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing an explicit  
3 value.

1           10. A method for master planning priority assignment,  
2 the method comprising:  
3           assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand  
4 record containing a demand record attribute field and a  
5 demand record priority field; said assigning including:  
6           identifying a rule database, said rule database  
7 including at least one record, a rule database attribute  
8 field that correlates to said demand record attribute field,  
9 and a rule database priority field;  
10          querying said rule database for a corresponding rule  
11 database record that contains data in said rule database  
12 attribute field that matches data in said demand record  
13 attribute field, said matching comprising:  
14          querying said rule database for an explicit data match;  
15          if no said explicit data match exists querying said  
16 rule database for a hierarchy value match; and;  
17          if no said explicit data match or said hierarchy value  
18 data match exists querying said rule database for a wildcard  
19 match; and  
20          updating data in said demand record priority field with  
21 data from said corresponding rule database priority field.

1 11. A system for performing master planning priority  
2 assignment, the system comprising:  
3 a storage device storing master planning priority  
4 assignment data;  
5 a user system; and  
6 a host system in communication with said storage device  
7 and said user systems, said host system implementing a  
8 process comprising:  
9 assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand  
10 record containing a demand record attribute field and a  
11 demand record priority field; said assigning including:  
12 identifying a rule database, said rule database  
13 including at least one record, a rule database attribute  
14 field that correlates to said demand record attribute field,  
15 and a rule database priority field;  
16 querying said rule database for a corresponding rule  
17 database record that contains data in said rule database  
18 attribute field that matches data in said demand record  
19 attribute field; and  
20 updating data in said demand record priority field with  
21 data from said corresponding rule database priority field.

1 12. The system of claim 11 wherein said wherein said  
2 data in said corresponding rule database attribute field  
3 contains an explicit value.

1           13. The system of claim 11 wherein said data in said  
2           corresponding rule database attribute field contains a  
3           hierarchy value and said match occurs if said data in said  
4           demand record attribute field is contained within said  
5           hierarchy value.

1           14. The system of claim 11 wherein said data in said  
2           corresponding rule database attribute field contains a  
3           wildcard value and said data in said demand record attribute  
4           field is not used in said matching.

5           15. The system of claim 11 wherein said demand record  
6           attribute field includes due date, customer, and demand  
7           type.

1           16. The system of claim 11 wherein said host system  
2           implementing a process further comprises creating said rule  
3           database.

1           17. The system of claim 11 wherein said host system  
2           implementing a process further comprises updating said at  
3           least one record in said rule database.

1           18. The system of claim 11 wherein said host system  
2           implementing a process further comprises creating a  
3           hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing a hierarchy  
4           value.

1           19. The system of claim 11 wherein said host system  
2       implementing a process further comprises creating a  
3       hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing an explicit  
4       value.

1           20. The system of claim 11 further comprising a  
2       network providing communication between the host system and  
3       the user system.

1           21. The system of claim 11 further comprising a  
2       network providing communication between the storage device  
3       and the host system.

1           22. A system for performing master planning priority  
2 assignment, the system comprising:  
3           a storage device storing master planning priority  
4 assignment data;  
5           a user system; and  
6           a host system in communication with said storage device  
7 and said user systems, said host system implementing a  
8 process comprising:  
9           assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand  
10 record containing a demand record attribute field and a  
11 demand record priority field; said assigning including:  
12           identifying a rule database, said rule database  
13 including at least one record, a rule database attribute  
14 field that correlates to said demand record attribute field,  
15 and a rule database priority field;  
16           querying said rule database for a corresponding rule  
17 database record that contains data in said rule database  
18 attribute field that matches data in said demand record  
19 attribute field, said matching comprising:  
20           querying said rule database for an explicit data match;  
21           if no said explicit data match exists querying said  
22 rule database for a hierarchy value match; and;  
23           if no said explicit data match or said hierarchy value  
24 data match exists querying said rule database for a wildcard  
25 match; and updating data in said demand record priority  
26 field with data from  
27           said corresponding rule database priority field.

1           23. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable  
2 computer program code for performing master planning  
3 priority assignment, the storage medium storing instructions  
4 for causing a host system to implement a method comprising:  
5           assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand  
6 record containing a demand record attribute field and a  
7 demand record priority field; said assigning including:  
8           identifying a rule database, said rule database  
9 including at least one record, a rule database attribute  
10 field that correlates to said demand record attribute field,  
11 and a rule database priority field;  
12           querying said rule database for a corresponding rule  
13 database record that contains data in said rule database  
14 attribute field that matches data in said demand record  
15 attribute field; and  
16           updating data in said demand record priority field with  
17 data from said corresponding rule database priority field.

1           24. The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said data  
2 in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains  
3 an explicit value.

1           25. The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said data  
2 in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains  
3 a hierarchy value and said match occurs if said data in said  
4 demand record attribute field is contained within said  
5 hierarchy value.



1           26. The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said data  
2 in said corresponding rule database attribute field contains  
3 a wildcard value and said data in said demand record  
4 attribute field is not used in said matching.

1           27. The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said demand  
2 record attribute field includes due date, customer, and  
3 demand type.

1           28. The storage medium of claim 23 further comprising  
2 creating said rule database.

1           29. The storage medium of claim 23 further comprising  
2 updating said at least one record in said rule database.

1           30. The storage medium of claim 23 further comprising  
2 creating a hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing  
3 a hierarchy value.

1           31. The storage medium of claim 23 further comprising  
2 creating a hierarchy value, said hierarchy value containing  
3 an explicit value.

1           32. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable  
2 computer program code for performing master planning  
3 priority assignment, the storage medium storing instructions  
4 for causing a host system to implement a method comprising:  
5       assigning a priority to a demand record, said demand  
6 record containing a demand record attribute field and a  
7 demand record priority field; said assigning including:  
8       identifying a rule database, said rule database  
9 including at least one record, a rule database attribute  
10 field that correlates to said demand record attribute field,  
11 and a rule database priority field;  
12       querying said rule database for a corresponding rule  
13 database record that contains data in said rule database  
14 attribute field that matches data in said demand record  
15 attribute field, said matching comprising:  
16       querying said rule database for an explicit data match;  
17       if no said explicit data match exists querying said  
18 rule database for a hierarchy value match; and;  
19       if no said explicit data match or said hierarchy value  
20 data match exists querying said rule database for a wildcard  
21 match; and  
22       updating data in said demand record priority field with  
23 data from said corresponding rule database priority field.